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Longitudinal studies are required

We thank Patel et al. for their correspondence and interest in the research. We absolutely agree that indication for amputation and revascularisation is a key component to understanding the differential rates. However, HES does not collect data of sufficient quality to allow such analysis. To fully understand these inequalities, a prospective longitudinal study is required. Our research, therefore, should be viewed as hypothesis generating and a stimulus for work into this poorly understood public health problem.

Declarations

Competing interests: None declared.

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